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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Polish Troops in Krakow

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PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 1948 to January 1950

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DATE PREPARED 23 October 1950

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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Guard Regiment.

1. A guard regiment was quartered in the northern section of the city in a four-story building, about 100 meters long, on Montelupich Street next to the central prison. A multi-story court building was part of the barracks. The unit was estimated at 450 to 500 men who wore yellow service color. A company of about 150 men with a military band daily left the building in the direction of the center of the city.
2. The military bearing of the soldiers, who were from 20 to 25 years old, was good. They were equipped only with rifles and wore the new round service cap. (1)

Training Unit.

3. A training unit was quartered in six large wooden huts in the northern section of the city. It was called a recruit regiment. A general became the commanding officer of the unit in October 1949. He received the rank of general in early October.
4. The strength of the unit was estimated at about 1,000 men. Twenty-five officers were counted. Among the soldiers were many with German names who spoke excellent German.
5. The unit was equipped with German carbines and a Soviet automatic rifle with a magazine holding 10 rounds. The soldiers wore yellow service color.
6. The PWs were estimated to be about 18 years of age. A change in the occupation and the beginning of basic training was observed in October 1948, March 1949 and October 1949. Other PWs said that recruit training in Poland lasted one year, six months of which was spent in a training area. After that period the soldiers were distributed to various troop units.

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No Change in Class. ☒☐ Declassified

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Motorized Unit.

7. A motorized signal regiment was quartered on Montelupich Street in a five-story barracks building with a frontage of 100 meters. Four wooden sheds were used for garages. Arms and equipment were stored in two other temporary buildings and a wooden hut was used as a workshop.
8. The strength of this unit was estimated at 700 to 800 men. The soldiers were 20 to 22 years old. Their officers looked very young. The unit was equipped with pistols, rifles and sub-machine gun as well as German radio trucks, portable radio sets and telephone sets. The soldiers wore green service color. When off duty, they wore the new round service cap. The officers wore a silver stripe above a red ribbon on their caps. (2)

Tank Unit.

9. A tank unit, called a regiment, was quartered in a barracks on Rakowice Street. The street frontage was taken up by a five-story building 150 meters long. There were other buildings behind it.
10. The unit was equipped with tanks on which the gun had a strikingly large muzzle brake. Old Soviet three-axle armored reconnaissance cars were also seen. In the summer of 1949, about 30 tanks and 6 armored reconnaissance cars left the barracks heading north. (3)

Militia School.

11. A militia school was near the tank barracks, on the opposite side of the street. It was in a four-story building that formed part of a block of barracks buildings.
12. The building was occupied by an estimated 250 men. The militia men wore blue uniforms and the traditional Polish caps. It was believed that indoctrination courses were held there.
13. The Poles generally believed that all officers of the unit were either Soviets or Poles returned from the U.S.S.R.

Military Supply Depots.

14. Three military supply depots were located in the northern section of the city near the central prison. Food and fodder was stored there. One of the depots had a railroad connection. The depots were surrounded by walls, fences and barbed wire and guarded by militia soldiers.

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Comments.

- (1) The same unit was previously reported as a guard battalion. In the Comment to the referenced report the belief was expressed that it was a KBW unit. Since the yellow service color was observed also with MON guard troops in Warsaw, the unit may actually be an army guard unit.
- (2) The green service color would indicate that this was a WOP unit.
- (3) Several previous reports mentioned that tank units were located on Rakowice Street. It has not been possible to identify this unit. The data on the tanks indicate that they were JS type tanks if they were Soviet tanks at all.

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**Attachment: Sketch of military installations in Krakow.**

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